



Rita Zecchinelli

Rita Zecchinelli is from Italy. She graduated at the University of Milano in Agricultural Science with a degree thesis on seed germination physiology.

In 1985, she joined the Ente Nazionale Sementi Elette (ENSE), the Italian public body which carries out seed certification on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. She has been working in the seed certification unit of Milano for thirteen years, being involved in field inspections, seed sampling and other tasks related to seed certification in different species (cereals and forage crops in particular).

In 1998, she moved to the Seed Testing Laboratory in Tavazzano, becoming the Head of the station. She is still in the same position.

As Head of the laboratory, she is engaged in seed testing, including traditional kinds of tests, such as germination, purity, moisture content determination, variety and GMO tests. All these kinds of tests are at present included in the laboratory's scope of ISTA accreditation achieved in 2000. The laboratory is also a member of the ENGL (European Network for GMO Laboratories).

At National and International level, Rita has been and is a member of different committees and boards working on subjects related to seed certification and seed testing.

She's a member of the Executive Committee of ISTA since 2004 and of two ISTA technical committees (Proficiency Test Committee, Flower Seed Committee). As Vice-chair of the Flower Seed Committee, she is co-editor of the ISTA Handbook for Flower Seed Testing, published in 2008.

Since 2006, Rita is also an ISTA technical auditor.